

COOS BAY TIMES

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WHICH CLASS ARE YOU IN?

COMMUNITY spirit of the right sort will make any town take a higher rank among neighboring towns. It is by the spirit of citizens of a city that the place is judged. That was manifest in the proud boast of a resident of Carthage two thousand years ago: 'I am myself a citizen of no mean town.'

THE BEST MAN IN TOWN.

THE best man we have in Marshfield today for the good of the town is the man whom you will always see on the front seat of the progressive band wagon. He is the first one to extend an open and a friendly hand to greet the stranger and to the best little town will resent an insult as he would his family.

MUNICIPAL OWNERSHIP SUCCEEDS.

THE TIME ago the Capital Journal called attention to the fact that municipal ownership of public utilities was proving a marked success in Eugene, Oregon, as well elsewhere. In support of this point, we reprint from the annual report of the Eugene Water Board, just published in the Morning Register of that city, the following extracts:

According to the report of the board filed with the city council, the net earnings of the electric power plant and system from June 16, 1914, to December 19, 1914, amounted to \$54,000. The gross earnings for the period were \$59,222.47, out of which was paid operating expenses of \$5,222.47, leaving a net balance on hand of \$7,312.54. The net revenue for the entire year was a total of \$87,511.63 as against \$71,100 for 1913, an increase of \$16,411.63.

For the same period the water plant's net earnings amounted to \$44,400. Gross receipts from the department amounted to \$49,000, out of which was paid operating expenses and interest on indebtedness to the amount of \$4,600, while the system was paid by new construction and some amounting to \$2,000, leaving a net balance on hand of \$4,800.

A revenue from both water and electric departments, according to the report, amounting to \$122,911.63. The net revenue for the year was \$122,911.63, which is a net balance on hand of \$12,112.54.

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\$40,999.31, making a grand total on hand of \$197,799.54.

After discussing at length the condition of the water system, contemplated improvements, extensions, etc., the report concludes as follows: 'Commercial Lighting and Power System—Extensions necessary to take care of new business have been made wherever returns have warranted, likewise other equipment in connection therewith has been provided, and, as elsewhere noted, the revenues have been ample for this purpose, which is indeed gratifying.'

'The total number of active accounts on our customers' ledger continues to show an active growth, the records showing 1671 active accounts as of January 1, 1915. 'It will be recalled that before the municipal utility first entered the commercial field about three years ago, the citizens of Eugene were paying a maximum rate of 15c per kilowatt hour for lighting service, and that when the municipal utility was ready for commercial service, we set the maximum rate for lighting service at 9c per kilowatt hour. Effective with the issuance of the bills September 1, 1914, and covering August meter readings, the water board announced a further reduction in lighting rates from 9c maximum per kilowatt hour, likewise, power service from 5c per kilowatt hour to 4 1/2 cents per kilowatt hour. This reduction was made after careful study of present and probable future conditions. There is no question of a doubt but that further reductions are possible with the united support and patronage of all electric consumers. If each two customers collectively will unite in their efforts and secure but one new customer for the municipal utility during the coming year this condition can be brought about.'

This department has in its files perhaps a dozen letters of inquiry, received during the past year from as many different towns and cities in the Northwest seeking information as to Eugene's successful method of operation and handling of a municipal utility under municipal ownership. Eugene is gaining a similar distinction to that which Seattle enjoys by the reason of that city possessing a successful municipal utility. Municipal ownership is no longer a theory and a far-away dream, but is a practical reality and has developed slowly and conservatively into a movement which is growing throughout the land with a force similar to other great economic movements of the present time. 'The Capital Journal believes that municipal ownership of all public utilities is the correct principle. The people should own and control those things which are necessities in our modern scheme of living, and water and light are essentially so. Properly managed, such utilities may not only be made to better serve the public, but are frequently sources of profit to the community as well. The Eugene instance is only one among many where municipal ownership has proven a success.—Salem Capital Journal.

A MILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF HORSESHOES.

AMONG the industrial items relating to the war, we got this one: Russia has contracted with a New Jersey concern for \$1,000,000 worth of horseshoes. Do we believe in luck? If we do, here is the bunch that heads us in just right.

Even as we associate good luck with the horseshoe, this million dollar horseshoe order is typical of the real condition and the prospect that it is worth while to contemplate.

But this order is more than a good omen. It is a hard, substantial, profitable fact. And it is not alone and insignificant—not by any means. If we turn the pages of the trade journals we will find many similar facts, and they tangle all the way from cotton cloth to structural steel.

Responding to this million dollar horseshoe impulse the Northern Pacific opens its shops at Livingston, Montana, on full time; Eastern steel mills are in constant activity over the delivery of 20,000 tons of steel rails; and the same mills, and others, are negotiating for contracts which will call for the delivery of 20,000 tons additional of the same material.

The Eugene/Carthage Railroad is headed into the same game with orders for structural steel and steel for use in reinforced-concrete work. The price of cotton goods advances in response to heavier inquiry and increased demand. Cannon mounts, shoes, blankets, gaiters, knapsacks of all sorts are trucked by the million dollar horseshoe lock—if we shall be pleased to call it such.

But after all, luck is not the word. The natural wealth of this country and the enterprise of its people are laid for the world to draw upon in its time of need. It is a situation that admits of no one fact and but one prospect. The fact is that business is beginning to boom, and the assured prospect is, it will continue to hum with increasing vigor.

Paste these things in your hat, Mr. Citizen, and get busy.—Telegram.

Some Coos Bay women would rather be married than be happy.

THE QUIET OBSERVER SAYS: 'It is no more ridiculous to let a doctor make you believe that you have appendicitis than it is to let a lawyer make you believe that you can get justice by going to law.'

TOPICS OF THE TIMES. There are days when the official dispatches from the war are nearly as correct as the unverified rumors. Talk may be cheap even now, but a whole lot of people would like to see it cheaper by wire.

WITH THE TEA AND THE TOAST

Just laws are no restraint upon the freedom of the good.—Fronde.

GOOD EVENING

Have you ever dreamed as I have dreamed, O' the will o' the wisp of fame—Have you fought and sought, as I have done, And found it an empty name? Have you hoped with hope, as I have hoped, Till your heart was wet with tears, And found, as I, that sorrows abound, Have you tried and failed, as once I failed—Have you conquered at last, to smile? If so, you'll learn, as I have learned, In the long, long line o' years? That the game, after all, 's worth while; And some day you'll know, as I too, know, That spite the sorrow and pain, The heart-worn strife, the toll o' life—You'd live it all over again! —Edmund Leamy.

JOY OF LIFE

There will never be another day like this one. Therefore, let us do our best today for the greatest thing we can ever do is to do our best.

SOME COOS BAY MEN ARE SO BUSY LOOKING FOR TROUBLE THAT THEY OVERLOOK OPPORTUNITY.

BEIN' GLAD. My idea of bein' glad Ain't in wishin' that I had something that I cannot buy, Ain't in wishin' with a sigh That would strain my wallet strings; Richer people doin' things Wishin' I could do 'em, too. I don't care what rich folks do; I'm contented with the way My life's goin' every day.

It may be all right to hang a horseshoe over your door, but for real, genuine results it's better to get out and hustle.

A good deal of room at the top is made by gentlemen who have gone to sleep there and fallen off.

The sweat of the brow often cures a swollen head. Dead men tell no tales—and dead dogs wag none. If a woman's vocabulary is limited she works it overtime. Prosperity has thorns, and adversity likewise has roses. Poverty may pluck an honest man, but it never lants him in jail.

If religion was good for the complexion man would seldom get their share of beauty.

Ever notice that it is the silent dog that does the biting, not one that lets up a yelp every time he sees any one approaching his tongue? The relay dog is never dangerous.

A trickster is merely a man who gets the best of a trade with you. The opinion of a candid person is seldom sought the second time.

Some Coos Bay women would rather be married than be happy.

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